

BISON ANNUAL SURVEY AND INVENTORY PERFORMANCE REPORT

STATE: Alaska

GRANT AND SEGMENT NR.: W-27-4

WORK LOCATION: Statewide

PROJECT NR.: 9.0

PROJECT LOCATION: Game Management Units 2 and 3

Project Title: The Status of Alaska Bison and Factors Influencing Their Populations

PERIOD: 1 July 2000–2001



The Status of Alaska Bison and Factors Influencing Their Populations in Region II

Regionwide Activities

Activity 1: Write an annual survey and inventory performance report.

Activity 2: Draft a bison management report.

The next bison management report will be drafted during spring 2002

Activity 3: Provide information to the Board of Game on bison management.

One Region 2 bison proposal was addressed during the Spring 2001 Board of Game Meeting.

Activities by Unit

Unit 11

Copper River Herd

Activity 1: Conduct aerial surveys in June to determine herd size and annual calf production.

Copper River Herd Survey June 2001:

108 total bison

89 Adults

19 Calves (17%)

Activity 2: Conduct a drawing permit hunt with up to 12 permits issued. Contact successful permittees as to hunt regulation and access restrictions, monitor harvest, interview successful hunters.

Harvest:

4 bison
4 males (100%)

Hunter Effort:

12 permits issued
9 permittees hunted
3.5 days per successful hunter

Chitina Herd

Activity 1: Conduct aerial survey in June to determine herd size and annual calf production.

Chitina Herd Survey June 2001:

38 total bison
32 adults
6 calves (16%)

Activity 2: Conduct a drawing permit hunt with up to 2 permits issued for bulls only, monitor harvest, interview successful hunters.

Harvest:

1 bull

Hunter Effort:

2 permits issued
1 permittee hunted
5 hunter days

Other activities funded by Federal Aid on this project:

Segment Period Project Costs:

Fiscal year 2000–2001	Region			Total
	II	III	V	
Planned	5.1			
Actual	5.1			

Submitted by:

Michael G McDonald

Assistant Management Coordinator

The Status of Alaska Bison and Factors Influencing Their Populations in Region III

Regionwide Activities

Activity 1: Write an annual survey and inventory performance report.

We wrote annual performance reports for both herds.

Activity 2: Provide information to the Board of Game.

No presentations were made to the Board of Game because Region III was not on the regular board schedule.

Activities by Herd and Unit

Farewell Herd (Units 19C and 19D)

Activity 1: Conduct ground or aerial surveys to assess population size and sex and age composition.

No aerial surveys were conducted because personnel were not available.

Activity 2: Replace radio collars used in aerial surveys that are no longer functional or about to go dead to maintain a sufficient sample to monitor the herd.

We deployed 2 radio collars in cow bison in October.

Activity 3: Assess forage availability and work with fire control agencies to improve habitat.

We continued to working with DNR Forestry to implement the Farewell Prescribed Burn.

Activity 4: Monitor the harvest of bison from the permit hunts.

We monitored the harvest of bison during 2 annual permit hunts. Forty hunters killed 24 bison.

Delta Herd (Unit 20D)

Activity 1: Assess forage availability and work with fire control agencies to improve habitat.

Range condition was assessed on the Delta Junction Bison Range by collecting and analyzing forage samples.

Activity 2: Monitor the harvest from the permit hunts.

Harvest was monitored for the 100 permits issued by requiring hunters to submit hunt reports. Preliminary data analysis indicates that 75 bison were killed.

Activity 3: Replace radio-collars used in aerial surveys that are no longer functional or about to go dead to maintain a sufficient sample to monitor the herd.

Radio collars were placed on 3 bison to assist with herd management and monitoring herd movements.

Activity 4: Conduct ground or aerial surveys to assess population size and sex and age composition.

Aerial surveys were conducted to estimate postcalving population size and resulted in a population estimate of 453 bison. Ground surveys were used to estimate postcalving herd sex and age composition and resulted in estimates of 63 bulls:100 cows and 58 calves:100 cows.

Activity 5: Monitor timing of bison movements from the summer range to the Delta Junction Bison Range and the Delta Agricultural Project to keep farmers informed of the herd's progress to minimize conflicts.

Radiocollared bison were monitored to determined movement patterns. Bison began moving from the Delta River to the Delta Junction Bison Range on 13 July 2000. Bison began moving from the Delta Junction Bison Range to the Delta Agricultural Project on 1 August 2000.

Activity 6: Continue investigation of methods and funding options to improve bison viewing opportunities.

No investigations of methods and funding options to improve bison viewing opportunities were conducted.

Other activities funded by Federal Aid on this project:

We collected bison blood from as many hunters as possible and separated serum for testing of livestock disease antibodies.

Segment Period Costs:

<i>Expenditure</i>	Personnel months	Personnel costs	Operating costs	<i>Total</i>
<i>Planned</i>	6.0	40.3	11.5	51.8
<i>Actual</i>	3.0	22.1	13.4	35.5
<i>Difference</i>	3.0	18.2	-1.9	16.3

Explanation:

Less than planned personnel time was required to complete survey activities and monitor permit hunts because some surveys were not conducted or were shortened and others were more efficiently conducted. Slightly more operating money was required because of unplanned purchase of helmets and headsets to conduct surveys.

Segment Period Statewide Costs: \$40, 600

Submitted by:

Roy A. Nowlin

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